C A R I B B E A N
M E T E O R O L O G I C A L
O R G A N I Z A T I O N

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THE COORDINATING DIRECTOR'S REPORT – 2026 ON CMO HEADQUARTERS UNIT ACTIVITIES

(Submitted by the Coordinating Director)

1. This document highlights activities of the CMO Headquarters since the 69th Regular Session of the Council, held on 20-21 November 2025, and hosted by the Government of Saint Lucia. Factors affecting operational aspects at the Headquarters and other matters of interest are also mentioned for information and guidance where appropriate. Details of some activities and developments, where necessary, will be dealt with under separate agenda items.

High Impact Tropical Weather Events and Climate Variability

2. Since the last regular session of the Caribbean Meteorological Council in November 2025, the major weather impacts in our region for 2026 were strong tropical waves, upper-level troughs, and other tropical disturbances.

3. In the Caribbean/Atlantic basins, this hurricane season was forecasted to be below normal, because of El Niño conditions, which creates an environment that is hostile to the formation of tropical cyclones over the Main Development Region. The forecast was verified, as 2026 was one of the quietest hurricane seasons going back to the 1850s[1], with the latest formation of the first Atlantic hurricane of the season, which was Isaias in the Gulf coast of the United States on 8 October 2026.

4. Due to El Niño become established over the course of the year, conditions were expected to be with drier and hotter conditions across the Caribbean Sea and Tropical Atlantic Ocean. Most of the eastern Caribbean experienced drier than normal conditions. For example, St. Vincent and the Grenadines had rainfall deficits as high as 62% of normal through September. Heat records were broken from Guyana to the Bahamas.

5. Other severe weather, can also be deadly, damaging and cumulatively costly. The reports of the Annual Meeting of the Directors (DMS2026) provide details of the high-impact weather, climate, and water events experienced in the Member States in 2026. These include heavy rainfall, flash flooding and landslides on 26 April in eastern and northeastern Dominica due to an upper-level trough. That event was compounded by hydrological hazards, including temporary damming and rapid collapse of the blockage. The event, which triggered a national emergency response activation, caused damaged homes and vehicles, loss of livestock and crops, damage to roads, and other infrastructure. Communities were isolated due to impassable roads. A strong tropical wave on 5 October 2026 brought heavy rainfall and flash floods to Saint Lucia and St Vincent and the Grenadines, leading to damaged buildings, loss of livestock and crops, roads, properties and equipment. Guyana experienced three severe weather events that brought strong winds, which damaged houses and other infrastructure.

[1] Landsea, 2026 (personal communication)

6. Frequent episodes of significant Saharan dust also occurred throughout 2026. Members noted the importance of increasing monitoring and prediction capability in the region to support integrated health services and the WMO Global Atmospheric Watch (GAW).

Early Warnings for All, Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Adaptation

7. To strengthen the capacity for global and regional early warnings at the national level, the CMO Headquarters has been implementing the *Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems* (CREWS) Caribbean 2.0, via an implementing arrangement with WMO and funding of more than **$500K**. Details of the project will be provided under Agenda Item 11.

8. The CMO Headquarters is a member of the **Regional Early Warning Systems Consortium**, which is led by *Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency* (CDEMA). The REWS Consortium has been assigned to be the steering committee for the CREWS Caribbean 2.0. The last meeting of the Consortium was held on 9-10 December 2025 in Trinidad and Tobago.

9. Council is reminded that the **Green Climate Fund** (GCF) approved a CMO project entitled, "***Scaling up of Caribbean Hydrometeorological and Multi-hazard Early Warning Services in Belize and Trinidad and Tobago***", with funding of **~$24million USD** over 5 years**.** The ***Caribbean Development Bank***, a GCF Accredited Entity, is the Contracting Entity for the project and the CMO Headquarters will be the Executing Entity, as approved by the 69th Council.

10. The project was advanced under a new *Scaling Up Framework* between the **GCF *Simplified Approval Process* (SAP)** and the ***Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems* (CREWS)** initiative, which develops, scales-up and **fast-tracks financing modalities for early warning systems** (EWS), **firmly grounded in country ownership**. Details of the project are provided under Agenda Item 11.

11. Council will recall that a major responsibility for the CMO Headquarters with regard to DRR is the **Severe Weather Forecast Programme (SWFP) Caribbean**, which focuses on severe weather that is not associated with tropical cyclones wind watch and warnings. The focus is on severe weather that can occur at any time of year (heavy rain, strong winds, rough seas/swells, and excessive heat). The Regional Sub-programme Management Team is co-chaired by *Météo-France-Martinique* and CMO Headquarters and supported by CIMH.

12. The SWFP Caribbean is in transition to its operational phase, following an operational testbed workshop co-organized by CMO Headquarters, Meteo-France, and CIMH and hosted at CIMH in June 2026. Global and regional model forecasts are being used to monitor potential severe weather by the *Regional Forecast Support Facility* (RFSF)–Martinique, which is providing daily guidance products.

13. In addition to the activities reported above, the CMO Headquarters Unit continues to advance disaster risk reduction in cooperation and coordination with CDEMA, CIMH, and other regional institutions. Through the Regional Early Warning System (REWS) Consortium led by CDEMA, CMO HQ aided in advancing Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS). Other related activities are described under Agenda Items 5 and 11.

14. Additionally, the Coordinating Director has been participating in the Americas and the Caribbean EW4All Regional Coordination Mechanism and the Operational Coordination Group of the CREWS initiative.

15. CMO Headquarters is also supporting a pilot project entitled, "*Building Resilient Early Warning and Risk Communication Capacity Through Cell Broadcast Technology in Five Eastern Caribbean Countries (2026–2030)*", which is being implemented by the World Bank and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU). The Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) is the regional lead institution for the project. The aim of the project is the strengthening of last-mile early warning dissemination in the Eastern Caribbean through the design, deployment, and operation of a regional

Emergency Alert System (EAS), primarily based on Cell Broadcast technology aligned with the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP), which CMO has been implementing in our Member States.

Showcasing the contributions and innovations of National Meteorological Services

Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society

16. The CMO Headquarters is delighted to inform the Council that forecasters from CMO Members are co-authors of a research article recently published in the Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society. The article is entitled, "*A synoptic overview of the EUREC4A field campaign".*[2]

17. The article is the culmination of learning outcomes from workshops that brought together forecasters and researchers to examine, in detail, cloud patterns in the region of interest (Barbados and the upstream trade winds) and how they were influenced by synoptic features. The article notes that "*The presence of operational regional forecasters played an integral role in the overall outcome of the EUREC^{4}A programme. These forecasters were able to provide a comprehensive daily forecast of the synoptic driving factors, which in turn determined the expected weather. Given the expected weather, the EUREC^{4}A team was able to determine the type of cloud patterns to expect during their field operation*."

18. Council will recall that the EUREC4A field study was conducted in January to February 2020, with CIMH being the Caribbean lead. It was the first time that so many Caribbean forecasters were able to contribute to an international research field study; to provide daily weather briefings and have meaningful discussions with research scientists, to develop real-time collaborative practice during the forecast testbed and then later to refine the daily weather analysis in a second workshop. This article stands as a reference of the weather during EUREC4A for future studies.

American Meteorological Society Conferences

19. Council will recall from the 69th Session that, in an effort to showcase the excellent work of the National Meteorological Services in 2025, **CMO Headquarters submitted two abstracts that were co-authored by experts in Member States, WMO, and CIMH** to the 106th Annual Meeting of the *American Meteorological Society* (AMS). This continued a tradition started in 2022.

20. Recognizing the tremendous job done by Jamaica's Meteorological Service in providing early warnings on Hurricane Melissa, which saved many lives, the Coordinating Director asked if the organizers of the 22nd Conference on Major Weather Impacts would consider a late abstract to be submitted on behalf of Mr Evan Thompson, Principal Director of the Meteorological Service of Jamaica to present on Hurricane Melissa. The organizers instead recommended that Hurricane Melissa warranted a panel discussion. The CMO Headquarters is grateful for the kindness of the conference organizers, and the generosity of the AMS, which enabled Coordinating Director to organize a well-received panel on Hurricane Melissa and its Impacts, with the following panelists:

- Mr. Evan Thompson/ Principal Director, Meteorological Service of Jamaica,
- Mr. Peter Clarke, Hydrological Adviser of Jamaica with WMO and Hydrological Adviser for WMO RA IV (North America, Central America and the Caribbean),
- Mr. David Zelinsky, Hurricane Specialist. National Hurricane Center,
- Dr. David Novak, Director, National Weather Service/Weather Prediction Center,
- Prof. Michael Taylor, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Technology, Co-Director, The University of the West Indies, Climate Studies Group at Mona, Jamaica
- Dr. Arlene Laing, Coordinating Director, Caribbean Meteorological Organization

[2] Saffin, L., Jones, R., Schwendike, J., Laing, A., Caesar, K.-A., Alves, L. et al. (2026) A synoptic overview of the EUREC4 A field campaign. Quarterly Journal of the Royal Meteorological Society, e70311. Available from: https://doi.org/10.1002/qj.70311

21. The CMO Headquarters is grateful for sponsorship which enabled in-person oral presentations by, respectively, the Coordinating Director (CD) and the Science and Technology Officer (STO):

- "CMO Implementation of the Caribbean WIS 2.0 Node and WMO CAP Composer: A Game Changer,", 42nd Conference on Environmental Information Processing Technologies

- "Building Lightning Safety Awareness in Caribbean Schools Through Effective Partnerships", 21st Symposium on Societal Applications: Policy, Research and Practice

22. The Council is asked to join the CMO Headquarters in thanking the US Permanent Representative with WMO, NOAA National Weather Service, for sponsoring two early-career professionals to present and participate in discussions in the International Session of the Annual AMS Meeting in 2026.

- Ms. Tandria Mapp, Meteorologist, Barbados Meteorological Service
- Ms. Kimberly Seaton, Information Technology Specialist, Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service

23. Furthering the showcasing of early warning communications, the Coordinating Director also submitted abstracts on early warning communications, in collaboration with NMHSs, to the *3rd Weather and Society Conference* of the WMO *World Weather Research Programme* (WWRP, February 2026). recommendations for communication frameworks were also presented globally via a keynote address delivered by the Coordinating Director at the *Trinidad and Tobago Disaster Risk Management Conference* (June 2026).

24. CMO Headquarters is also pleased to inform the Council that it has two abstracts accepted for presentation at the 107th Annual AMS Meeting, to be held in Denver Colorado on 10-14 January 2027.

1. Examining advances in early warning communication and institutional collaboration in the Caribbean was accepted for presentation at the *43rd Environmental Information Processing Technologies* session on the UN Early Warnings for All.

2. From Infrastructure to Forecasts to Communicating Action: Strengthening Operational Readiness and Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems across the Caribbean, at the 11th symposium on US International Partnerships

25. The CMO Headquarters and CIMH were invited to nominate another set of early career professionals for sponsorship to participate in the 107th Annual Meeting of the AMS in January 2027. The CD has nominated the following experts from NMHSs:

- Mr Dwayne Scott, National Meteorological Service of Belize
- Mr Glen Antoine, Saint Lucia Meteorological Services

WMO Matters

26. The Council is asked to join the CMO Headquarters in congratulating **Grenada on becoming a WMO Member, effective 18 October 2026**. The Coordinating Director is pleased to have assisted with the process. The CD has invited the Manager of Meteorology to join the BCT delegation to the 4th Session of the Services Commission to help him to become familiar with WMO procedures and has also been providing information on preparations for the 20th World Meteorological Congress 2027 to held 14-25 June 2027.

27. Many of the activities of the CMO Headquarters were aimed at regional implementation of global programmes and initiatives, particularly those emanating from the ***World Meteorological Organization*** (WMO) as they related to the Caribbean, generally, and CMO Member States, in particular. As one of

the pillars of its mandate, the CMO actively participates in WMO activities at the highest possible level in order to ensure that the interests of small developing states are accounted for and to guide and advise the CMO Member States in their own related activities.

28. The outcomes of the WMO Executive Council, Technical Commissions, and Research Board will be covered in detail under Agenda Item 5. Nevertheless, it is useful to mention a few major issues that the CMO Headquarters and the CIMH have been involved in that will have immediate impact on CMO Member States. Among these are:

- The implementation of the ***Early Warnings for All Technical Regulations***;
- Adjustment of the Strategic and Operational Plan for 2026-2027 due to reduction in contributions
- Strategic Planning for 2028-2031
- Implementation of the Global Basic Observation Network (GBON), with support of the Systematic Observation Financing Facility (SOFF) for 11 CMO Members States.
- International Data Exchange Transitioning to WMO Information System (WIS)
- 20th World Congress, June 2027

29. The Coordinating Director, as a member of the ***WMO Executive Council*** (EC), participated in its 80th session (EC-70) in June 2026, along with advisors, Mr Kenneth Kerr, Science and Technology Officer, CMO Headquarters, and Dr David Farrell, Principal of CIMH (online), and Dr Holly Hamilton (online). As a member of the Executive Council, the Coordinating Director has served on the *Young Scientist Award Committee* and the WMO *Staff Pension Committee* since 2019.

30. The Coordinating Director continues to serve as the RA IV representative to the ***WMO Research Board*** (RB), having been selected in May 2025 as a co-chair of RA IV Research and Modelling Expert Team. In that capacity, she has advanced activities that support the research priorities of North America, Central America and the Caribbean. She also co-chairs the Research Board *Task Team on Early Warnings for All* and served on the *Data Exchange for the Research Sector Task Team.*

31. Council is informed that the *4th Session of the WMO Weather, Climate, Hydrological, Marine and Related Environmental Services and Applications* (SERCOM-4)*,* was held on 19-20 and 22-23 October 2026 as a hybrid session. The meeting was attended virtually by ***Dr. Arlene Laing***, as the Principal Delegate of the British Caribbean Territories (BCT) delegation, which included ***Mr Kenneth Kerr*** and ***Mr Haley Anderson*** (CMO Headquarters); ***Ms Kathy Ann Caesar*** (CIMH); and ***Mr Gerard Tamar*** (Manager of Meteorology, Grenada Airport Authority).

32. The CMO Headquarters has continued to be active in supporting WMO regional activities and guiding regional and national action for the ***WMO Integrated Global Observing System (*WIGOS**) and ***WMO Information Systems*** (WIS). CMO Headquarters hosts **a Caribbean node of WIS2.0**. The Science and Technology Officer, Mr Kenneth Kerr, is the focal point for WIGOS and WIS activities.

33. CMO Headquarters is ensuring the availability, accuracy, and timeliness of weather, climate, and water observations and related data and information from National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services as a node of the ***Regional WIGOS Centre*** in Regional Association IV (RA IV - North America, Central America and the Caribbean).

34. CMO Headquarters/British Caribbean Territories and Trinidad and Tobago Meteorological Service are responsible for the data quality management system for the English-speaking Caribbean in the virtual ***Regional WIGOS Centre***. The centre, which has been operating in pilot mode since December 2023, is a collaboration with the United States National Weather Service, Environment Canada, Costa Rica. The STO, who serves as the focal point, attended the **5th Global Workshop for Regional WIGOS Centres** in July 2026 (virtually).

35. Council will be interested in know that CMO continues to be a pioneer as the WMO and CMO organized the first Leadership and Management Training for Caribbean Members of WMO RA IV, aimed at

Directors and other senior officers. The workshop was funded by VCP funds from the Korean Meteorological Agency and the CREWS Caribbean 2.0. The Directors and senior officers who participated found the training to be very valuable and have used the knowledge gain and information gathered in the management of their NMHS.

36. The Coordinating Director was invited by the WMO Secretariat to join the Informal Planning Meeting of the Volunteer Co-operation Programme (VCP), which identifies projects to be covered from Members contribution to the VCP funds. The invitation to join was related to the fact that CMO Headquarters provides coordination support for regional activities, which allows WMO process to be more efficient.

Strategic Investments: WMO and Partners

37. The Council is informed that the Coordinating Director, as PR of the BCT with WMO was invited to join the WMO IPM of the vol.

> Opportunities for CMO NMHSs: Grant Funding for **Health-Met Desks**, 2026-2029
>
> The WMO Climate and Health Joint Programme, with support from Wellcome and The Rockefeller Foundation, launched the *Global Climate Services for Health Accelerator*, to support establishing at least three Health-Met Desks at National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in Low-and Middle-income/SIDS countries.
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> **CMO Headquarters assisted Jamaica with its application** to be a pilot for the Health-Met Desk. While not chosen for the pilot programme, funding was provided to Jamaica to continue increasing capacity in integrated health services.

Development of National Meteorological Services in CMO Member States

38. In 2026, CMO Headquarters continued to provide guidance to the Director of Meteorology of the Turks and Caicos Island (TCI) Airport Authority, ***Dr Holly Hamilton***, on the development of their National Meteorological Service and to develop capacity in the delivery of forecast services. CMO Headquarters, in collaboration with WMO and national partners, supported the conduct of a national workshop on **Strengthening Knowledge Exchange and Mutual Understanding between the Meteorology Department, Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies (DDME), and the Media**, held in Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, from 5-7 May 2026. The workshop brought together **16 representatives** (10 female, 6 male) from the TCI National Weather Service, DDME, Communications Directorate, local media, and regional partners, to strengthen coordination and improve the effectiveness of multi-hazard early warning communication. The workshop was greatly supported by the Director of the ***Bahamas Department of Meteorology***, Mr Geoffrey Greene, which provides forecasts and warnings for TCI.

39. CMO Headquarters continued to support the development of national meteorological services in the Virgin Islands (UK), by assisting their Ministry of Communication and Works with the review of the Terms of Reference for the position of Change Manager and the related evaluation metrics. CMO Headquarters continued to assist the capacity development of the meteorological services in BVI by ensuring their compliance with WMO requirements for observation timeliness and quality. The meteorologist at the BVI Department of Disaster Management is developing skills in impact-based weather forecasting, as a workshop organized by CMO and WMO in May and skills in severe weather forecasting, after completing the SWFP Operational Testbed Workshop in June 2026.

Legal and Governance to support National Hydro-meteorological Services

40. Council Members are urged to enact draft national legislation and policy for their National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services (NMHSs) in the Caribbean. Then these operational services will have legal mandate for their services, suitable staffing capabilities to provide the service;

develop partnerships with public, private and academic sectors; uptake of science and technology advancement; adapt suitable operating models; develop human and technical capacities and other key aspects. They will be better equipped for the evolving roles and responsibilities of NMHSs.

CMO Radar Network and the CMO Operational Radar Group (CORG)

41. CMO Headquarters and the ***Caribbean Development Bank*** were successful in receiving the **approval** of the ***Green Climate Fund*** for a project that includes upgrading the radars in Belize and Trinidad to dual-polarization systems, which is the current standard for operational meteorology. Details of the project, which is budgeted at **~$24million USD**, are provided under Item 11.

42. Council will recall that the original Doppler radar project was implemented by CMO Headquarters, with funding from the European Union (EU) and oversight of CARIFORUM, with the radars commissioned to the four countries in 2009.

43. CMO Headquarters continued to support the operations of the CMO Radar Network through the collection and disbursement of funds to radar host countries and coordinating the CMO Operational Radar Group (CORG) activities. Additionally, CMO hosted three virtual meetings of the CORG since CMC69. Council is reminded that the CORG comprises radar technicians and IT personnel from radar host countries and CIMH, and is co-chaired by Mr Brian Murray of the Barbados Meteorological Service and Dr Ashford Reyes of CIMH.

Protecting Radio Frequencies for weather, climate and earth observations

44. Council is reminded that CMO Headquarters continues to support the efforts of WMO, ITU, and others to **protect radio frequencies that are vital for earth observations, weather forecasting, and climate services**. Weather forecasting and climate monitoring rely on radio spectrum and the SIDS even more so, as the primary source of observations over the oceans is passive sensing by satellite sensors.

45. Council will recall that CMO Headquarters serves on the **Caribbean Spectrum Management Task Force** because of the dependence of hydro-meteorological services on radio frequencies. In May 2025, CMO HQ participated in a panel at the 2nd Caribbean Spectrum Management Conference in Port of Spain, held in conjunction with a meeting of the Caribbean Spectrum Management Task Force. CMO Headquarters provided a written brief to the participants in the 2nd Caribbean Spectrum Management Conference, which provided information on the meteorological applications in the Caribbean and the protection of particular radio frequencies.

46. The CMO is grateful to the Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU) and its Members for supporting proposals to promote safety and safety-related services, including meteorological and related earth observations. The Council is advised that key information for Members is provided in the WMO/International Telecommunication Union (ITU) Handbook, "Use of Radio Spectrum for Meteorology: Weather, Climate, Water and related Environmental Applications".

47. CMO HQ is encouraging Members to work with their spectrum management authorities to ensure that adequate protection is maintained for radiocommunication allocated to meteorological and related earth observation services.

48. A priority for the WMO and CMO for the World Radio Conference 2027 has been the impact on **sea-surface temperature measurements** of a new spectrum allocation for the future development of International Mobile Telecommunications (IMT). Studies show that intended new IMT spectrum identification will interfere with sea surface temperature measurements up to 2000 km from the coast, thereby degrading the data.

Why do we care about satellite observations of sea surface temperature?

Because **sea surface temperature measurements help to predict where tropical storms and hurricanes are likely to form**, that is, where the sea-surface temperature reaches or exceeds 26ºC. Additionally, rapid **intensification of storms has been observed when they move over warm currents and eddies**. A recent case in point is Hurricane Melissa, which was forecasted to become a major hurricane because it continued to move over an area of high ocean heat content for several days. Hurricane Melissa remained at category-5 intensity for 36 hours as it moved over these areas of high ocean heat content. Satellite observations of the ocean temperature enabled early warnings of the dangerous hurricane for Jamaica and neighbouring islands.

49. *For the vast areas of the Atlantic Ocean and the Caribbean Sea, the primary observations of the air and sea are from satellites*, which measure earth observations at particular frequencies. These vital earth emissions are weak signals that have no alternatives. This is why the CMO is seeking the protection of the radio frequencies used for earth observations and those used for the provision of satellite links to relay data from science and earth observation missions.

Lightning safety awareness and monitoring

50. Lightning is the most commonly experienced weather hazard for humans and animals and it also poses a danger to wind turbines and solar farms. CMO HQ has been concluding activities stemming from the 2025 Caribbean Lightning Safety Awareness Contest by disbursing cash awards to winning schools in Belize, Dominica, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and The Bahamas. Six donated Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) were delivered to schools in The Bahamas, Belize, and Dominica. Preparations are underway for the winning high school (Trinidad and Tobago) and primary school (Jamaica) to host donated AccuWeather lightning sensors. Private sector co-financing mobilized totaled **USD 25,150** (USD 22,150 in hardware from AccuWeather; USD 3,000 in cash sponsorships from Campbell Scientific, Stevens Water, and Vaisala).

51. The initiative achieved international recognition, being featured in the WMO/UNICEF publication **COPE Disaster Champions: Lightning** (launched 30 June 2026) and presented at the 106th Annual Meeting of the American Meteorological Society.

52. Procurement of an additional five lightning detection sensors was proposed under CREWS 2.0 but has experienced some administrative delays.

CARICOM Related Activities

53. Council is asked to note that the CMO Headquarters participated in various CARICOM Related Activities including the Heads of Government Conference Opening in St Kitts and Nevis in February 2026 and Saint Lucia, July 2026. The CMO Headquarters Finance and Administrative Officer, ***Mrs Natalie Araujo-O'Brien***, continues to serve on the CARICOM RBM Leadership Group and the Finance Committee of the CCAT.

UN COP31

54. CMO Headquarters also participated in and provided scientific information to the CARICOM Preparatory Meetings for COP31 of the UNFCCC. In addition, the Coordinating Director was invited by the CREWS Secretariat to participate a dialogue on financing and scaling-up multi-hazard early warning services in the Caribbean; disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation; and heat and health services in National Meteorological Services. Unfortunately, the Coordinating Director was unable to participate in-person because of flight disruption due to the US government shutdown.

Strategic Planning

55. An update on the Status of the Strategic Planning of the CMO Headquarters and CIMH will be presented in Agenda Item 12**.** The CMO Headquarters has agreed with the Board of Governors of the CIMH, to convene a virtual meeting on 25 February 2027 for presentation of the Strategic Plans for both CIMH and CMO Headquarters.

56. Council is asked to note that the planned activities will be helping to strengthen the National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services; enhance early warning systems and disaster risk reduction; support the implementation of the WMO Integrated Global Observation System (WIGOS); contribute to establishing regional priorities for operationally-directed research, marine meteorology and ocean services; contribute to the framework for the Global Basic Observation Network and the free exchange of core and recommended data**.**

57. The implementation of the USD$24 million, 5-year grant from the Green Climate Fund will be the major focus of the CMO Headquarters for the period 2026 to 2030. A Project Management Unit will be hired but the CMO will be the Executing Entity and delivery of the outcomes will be the responsibility of the Coordinating Director.

Other Regional Cooperation and Collaborations

58. The CMO Headquarters participated in the XX Meeting of the Conference of the Ibero-American Meteorological Services (CIMHET) for the second time. The meetings of CIMHET were held in Madrid and Cordoba, Spain, during 13-16 October 2026. The CD's invited presentation identified areas of existing and potential new areas of cooperation and collaboration.

59. The CMO Headquarters has been asked by the WMO and by the Hydrometeorological Unit of Haiti (UHM) to facilitate "cloud" hosting payments for the implementation of WMO systems for UHM. This support is being sought because UHM does not have access to an appropriate payment mechanism for such transactions. Similar arrangements have been made for some Members in Africa. Funds for the payments would be provided to the CMO by the WMO or other development partners under projects supporting UHM.

75th Anniversary of the British Caribbean Meteorological Service

60. The Council will recall that in 2026 we are celebrating the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the British Caribbean Meteorological Service (BCMS) in 1951. The CMO originated from the BCMS, there the CMO Members are being asked to participate in commemorating this milestone anniversary.

61. CMO Headquarters presented awards to two retired meteorologists from that early era of meteorology in the Anglophone Caribbean, during World Meteorological Day 2026 in Belize and Trinidad and Tobago, respectively. CMO solicited interviews from both pioneers to have a record of the foundation that they laid for the region. CMO is grateful to the Penn State Department of Meteorology and Atmospheric Science for interviewing Dr. John Lee, one of the first employees of the BCMS and a member of the first class of forecasters trained in the BCMS. The National Meteorological Service of Belize conducted an interview with Dr. Kenrick Leslie of Belize, who also served in the regional meteorological service, in the second batch of trainee forecasters.

Other Matters

62. Council is asked to note that, by 30 September 2026, the level of financial contributions received from Member States was 93% of annual contributions approved for 2026 and 6% of arrears outstanding for prior years. Details of contributions and arrears will be discussed under Agenda items 6(c) and 6(d).

63. The CMO Headquarters continues to support the CIMH in its implementation of the Intra-ACP Climate Services and Related Applications (ClimSA) Programme on behalf of the CMO, by serving on the Project Steering Committee and participating in the related workshops and other invited activities. ClimSA is

an initiative of the Organisation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) funded under the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) to strengthen the climate services value chain. See the Principal's report for further details.

64. **ANNEX II** to this document indicates meetings and other events attended (or scheduled attendance) by officers of the CMO Headquarters since the 69th Council Session in November 2025. This schedule of activities undertaken by the CMO Headquarters to-date was relatively heavy this year, comprising of a mix of CMO, WMO, and UNDRR regional implementation activities. Several regional meetings were related to disaster risk reduction and Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems in the Caribbean. The Headquarters Unit formally congratulated newly-appointed Ministers and Permanent Secretaries, who oversee the National Meteorological Services; introducing each to the CMO and its role in supporting Member States

65. The CMO Headquarters continues to promote the participation in as many scientific, technical and training events as possible by the National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services and the CIMH, particularly those sponsored by the WMO and its partners that have a special relevance to the region. The list in **ANNEX III** shows the events that the Coordinating Director was able to facilitate from November 2025 to November 2026.

66. The 70th Session of the Caribbean Meteorological Council welcomes Mr Kerry Powery as the new Director-General of the Cayman Islands National Weather Service (CINWS). Mr Powery was appointed to lead the CINWS after several years serving as its Chief Meteorologist. He also serves as the Chair of the Infrastructure Committee of the WMO Region of North America, Central America and the Caribbean. We wish Mr Powery and the CINWS every success during his tenure.



67. The Council is asked to:

(i) **Note** the activities and issues concerning the CMO Headquarters in 2026, in particular, the advancement toward implementation of a major project by the Green Climate Fund to scale-up early warning systems and upgrade the radars in Belize and Trinidad and Tobago.

(ii) **Note** the engagement with disaster risk reduction and early warning systems; radio frequency coordination to protect meteorological observations and their transmission, and applications; as well as those issues concerning the wider Caribbean Community.

(iii) **Discuss** the impact of the current strong El Nino on the region and, in particular, the impact on CMO Member States.

(iv) **Note** that the strategic plan of the CMO Headquarters is being revised to integrate the new GCF project timeline and will be shared with the Council in February 2027 as Part A, with the CIMH (Part B) scheduled to be presented on 25 February.

(v) **Note** the efforts of the CMO Headquarters in developing strategic partnerships for building capacity for operational services in the Caribbean.

(vi) **Note** the promotion of the contributions of National Meteorological and Hydrometeorological Services.

(vii) **Note** the interest of CIMHET in developing closer collaboration with CMO

(viii) **Note** the request from the Hydrometeorological Unit of Haiti and WMO for CMO Headquarters to agree in principle to assist with cloud hosting payment using funds from WMO and **investigate** whether cloud hosting services could be provided by CIMH, which has offered their computing facility;

(ix) **Support** the commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the establishment of the British Caribbean Meteorological Service.

CMO Headquarters
November 2026

High Impact Hazardous Events of 2026

Preliminary Atlantic Tropical Cyclone Tracks

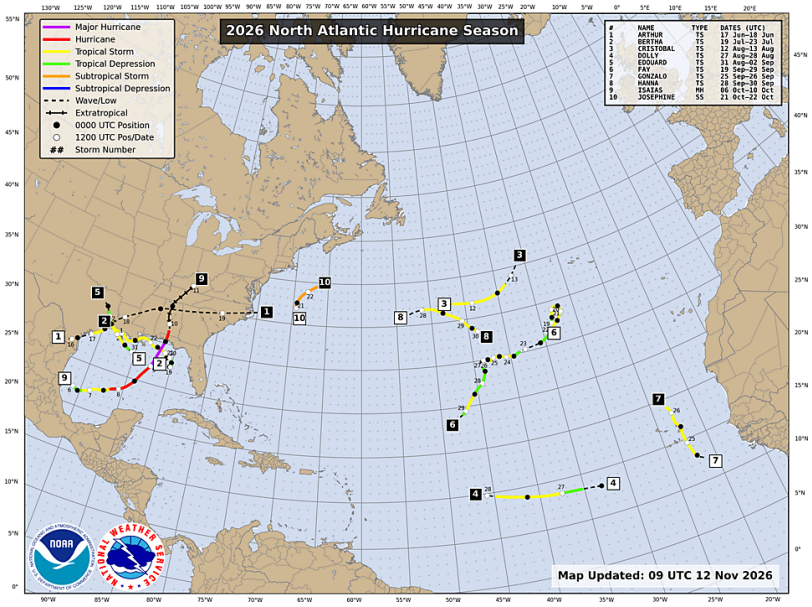


Figure A1. Atlantic Tropical Cyclone Tracks for 2026, up to 12 November 2026

2026/2027 CMO HQ Missions

(Not related to the CMC meetings)

Nov 24-25	**Saint Lucia Meteorological Service, Ministry of Infrastructure, Ports, Transport, Physical Development & Urban Renewal Saint Lucia,** National Strategic Plan National Stakeholder Consultation, Castries, Saint Lucia [CD, STO, PDO]
Nov 25-28	**CIMH,** Caribbean Climate Outlook Forum and EWISACTS Meeting, St Kitts & Nevis [CD]
Dec 1-5	**WMO & CREWS,** Capacity Development - Leadership and Management Training workshop, Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago [CD, STO, PDO]
Dec 8	**Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC),** 22nd Session of the Monitoring Committee of the Caribbean Development and Cooperation Committee (CDCC), Seminar, *"Unlocking Caribbean Potential: Enhancing Growth and Development Through South-South Cooperation"*, Port of Spain, Trinidad [STO]
Dec 9-10	**Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA**), 7th Regional Early Warning Systems Consortium (REWSC) Meeting, Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago [CD, PDO]
Dec 9-12	**ICAO,** Third Meeting of the North American, Central American and Caribbean Working Group Implementation of Aeronautical Meteorology (MET) Task Force Mexico City, Mexico, [STO]
Jan 8	**European Business Chamber In Trinidad and Tobago (EUROCHAMTT),** Making Sustainability 2nd Nature: Insights for Operators Sustainability Workshop 2026, Tobago, [CD]
Jan 9	**Caribbean Telecommunications Union (CTU)**, 1st International ICT Forecast and Industry Watch Meeting, virtual [CD]
Jan 14	**The Caribbean Catastrophic Risk Insurance Company** (**CCRIF SPC),** End-of-Internship Forum 2025, Panelist, virtual [CD]
Jan 20-21	**WMO, CREWS, UNDRR,** Regional Workshop on Strengthening Knowledge Exchange and Mutual Understanding between NMHSs, NDRMOs, and the Media, Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago [STO, PDO, CD]
Jan 22-23	CMOHQ & Varysian Limited, AI and Meteorological Innovation for Forecasting, Climate Services, and Disaster Preparedness Workshop, Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago [CD, PDO, STO]
Jan 25-29	**American Meteorological Society (AMS),** 106th Annual Meeting, presenters, Houston, United States of America (CD, STO]
Jan 26	**WMO**, 38th meeting of the RA IV Management Group, virtual, [CD, STO]
Feb 3	**WMO,** OSCAR/Surface Online Course and Hybrid Training Workshop**,** virtual [STO]

Feb 9-14	**WMO**, Hybrid Workshops on Regional WIGOS Centres (RWCs) Functions and Tools, and Regional Basic Observing Network (RBON) Design in RA IV, Costa Rica [PDO, STO]
Feb 11	**WMO** RAIV, Women: Leading and Inspiring in the Atmospheric and Hydrological Sciences of the Region, panelist, virtual [CD]
Feb 12-13, 22 May	**CTU**, Caribbean Spectrum Management Task Force, Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago [CD, STO]
Feb 20	**World Bank & International Telecommunications Union (ITU),** CREWS Cell Broadcast Emergency Alert System in the Caribbean - Project Inception Meeting [CD, STO]
Feb 23	**CREWS** 2.0 Project, Strategic Plan Development, National Stakeholder Consultation, St Kitts & Nevis [PDO, STO, CD]
Feb 23 & 26	**WMO,** World Weather Research Programme, 3rd Weather and Society Conference, "The roles of AI in forecast and warning services and in user responses", panelist [PDO, CD]
Feb 25	**CREWS** 2.0 Project, Strategic Plan Development, National Stakeholder Consultation, Antigua & Barbuda [PDO, STO, CD]
Feb 27	**CARICOM**, 50th Regular Heads of Government Conference, St Kitts & Nevis [CD]
Mar 2-5	**WMO**, 48th Session RA IV Hurricane Committee (HC-48), Cancún, México [CD, STO]
Mar 6-7	**WMO**, Severe Weather Forecasting Programme for the Caribbean (SWFP Caribbean) Regional Sub-programme Management Team (RSMT) Meeting, Mexico City [CD, STO]
Mar 9-13	**WMO & CMO**, Quality Management System (QMS) Training, Port of Spain [STO, PDO]
Mar 10-12	**CDEMA & the Office of Disaster Preparedness and Emergency Management (ODPEM,** Regional After-Action Review (AAR) Workshop, Jamaica [CD]
Mar 16	**National Emergency Management Organization,** Workshop, Socioeconomic Benefit Analysis of the National Emergency Management Organization (NEMO) of Belize, virtual [PDO]
Mar 16	**WMO,** Webinar, *"Data Discovery, Subscribing and downloading"*, virtual [STO]
Mar 20	**National Meteorological Service of Belize (NMS)**, World Meteorological Day Celebration, "*Observing Today, Protecting Tomorrow" &* launch of the 75th Anniversary of the British Caribbean Meteorological Service [CD]
Mar 23	**Trinidad & Tobago Meteorological Service (TTMS)**, World Meteorological Day Celebration, "*Observing Today, Protecting Tomorrow"* [CD, STO]
Mar 23	**CREWS** 2.0 Project, Strategic Plan Development, National Stakeholder Consultation, Belize [PDO]

Mar 24-25	**UNDRR & Caribbean Chamber of Commerce (CARICHAM),** Regional Private Sector Workshop on *"Strengthening Private Sector Engagement in Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) in the Caribbean",* Barbados [CD]
Mar 24	**CREWS, Regional Cell Broadcast Emergency Warning System (CB-EWS) Project,** virtual [STO]
Apr 1	**AMS**, 37th Conference on Hurricanes and Tropical Meteorology, virtual [CD]
Apr 7	**University of the West Indies St Augustine (UWI),** Courtesy Visit to the CMO HQ [PDO, STO]
Apr 20	**UN World Food Programme,** Courtesy Visit to the CMO HQ [CD STO]
April 23	Visit of **Delegation from Chinese Embassy in T&T,** Courtesy Visit to the CMO HQ [CD, STO]
May 11-13	**WMO,** Informal Planning Meeting of the WMO Voluntary Cooperation Programme (VCP), presenter, virtual [CD, PDO]
May 12-14	**WMO,** Workshop on Tropical Cyclone Probabilistic Forecast, virtual [STO]
May 19	**CTU & the Global Satellite Operators Association (GSOA)**, Workshop on Satellite Connectivity, virtual [PDO]
May 18-20	**Kington, Jamaica,** The International Relations of Tropical Storms and Hurricanes in the Caribbean, workshop on *"Strengthening Caribbean Cooperation on Extreme Weather",* Jamaica [CD, STO]
May 20-21	**CREWS** 2.0 Project, Strategic Plan Development, National Stakeholder Consultation, Trinidad & Tobago [PDO, STO, CD]
May 21	**UNESCO**, Webinar, SMART Cables - Caribe Regional Engagement, virtual [CD]
May 25-29	**CIMH,** Caribbean Regional Climate Outlook Forum (CARICOF) and EWISACTS, Coordination Meeting with European Commission, Nassau, Bahamas [CD]
May 26-29	**CREWS Caribbean 2.0**, Workshop on Impact-Based Forecast and Warning Services and the Common Alerting Protocol for the Caribbean, Trinidad & Tobago [STO, PDO]
Jun 1	**PODS Marketing Mix Ltd,** Trinidad and Tobago Disaster Risk Management Conference & Expo, Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago [CD, Invited Speaker, PDO]
Jun 1-4	**European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF),** "*Using ECMWF Forecasts"* (UEF2026), [STO]
Jun 9-12	**WMO** Information Systems (WIS) workshop, Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago [STO, PDO]
Jun 9-10	**ITU**, Caribbean Regional Validation Workshop for the Cell Broadcast Emergency Warning System Project, Grenada [CD]
Jun 11	Grenada Airport Authority, courtesy visit [CD]

Jun 11	**WMO,** Advancing Equitable Access to AI for Weather and Climate Prediction: A Governance Consultation with Developing Country NMHSs, virtual [STO]
Jun 15-17	**CIMH,** Severe Weather Forecasting Programme (SWFP) – Caribbean Operational Testbed Workshop, Barbados [CD, PDO]
Jun 18-19	**WMO,** 46th meeting of the Financial Advisory Committee (FINAC-46) Geneva, hybrid [CD, virtual]
Jun 22-26	**WMO,** 80th Executive Council (EC-80), Switzerland [CD, STO]
Jun 30-Jul 2, Jul 16	**WMO,** 5th Regional WIGOS Centres Global Workshop, virtual [STO]
Jul 1-2	**WMO & CREWS Caribbean** partnership meeting, Strengthening Caribbean Early Warning Systems Ahead of Hurricane Season, Barbados [CD, PDO]
Jul 5-8	**CARICOM**, 51st Heads of Government Conference, Saint Lucia [CD]
Jul 23 - 24	**CTU**, 1st Caribbean Artificial Intelligence Forum, The UWI St Augustine, Trinidad & Tobago, panelist [STO]
Jul 28-31	**International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) North American, Central American and Caribbean (NACC),** 4th Meeting, Working Group on Implementation of Aeronautical Meteorology, virtual, presenter [STO]
Jul 31- Aug 1	**CTU,** 3rd Small Island Developing States Internet Governance Forum (SIDS IGF), [CD, virtual presenter]
Aug 12-13	**CTU**, Spectrum Management Task Force Meeting & Workshop, virtual [CD, presenter]
Aug 17-18	**CREWS 2.0 Project**, Common Alerting Protocol Workshop, St Vincent and the Grenadines [STO]
Aug 20-21	**CREWS 2.0 Project**, Common Alerting Protocol Workshop, St Kitts and Nevis [STO]
Aug 26	Courtesy Visit to the Ministry of Foreign and CARICOM Affairs, Trinidad & Tobago
Aug 27-28	**CREWS 2.0 Project**, Common Alerting Protocol Workshop, Jamaica [STO]
Sep 1	Visit of **Delegation from Chinese Embassy in T&T**, courtesy visit to CMO HQ [CD, STO, PDO]
Sep 9	**WMO,** Webinar, Fundamentals on Marine Meteorology for RA IV, Session 2: Shallow waters, satellite observation, and models, virtual [STO]
Sep 10	**CIMH & Caribbean Water and Wastewater Association (CWWA)**, Webinar "Drought on the Horizon? How El Niño Will Impact Our Region – Facts and Hyperboles" [STO, PDO]
Sep 14	**CTU**, 4th International ICT Forecast and Preparatory Meeting, virtual [CD]

Sep 23	**UNDRR,** Dialogue on Inclusive Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS), virtual [CD, PDO, STO]
Sep 28 -30	**WMO,** WMO Research Board and Scientific Advisory Panel, (RB-13), Geneva [CD]
Sep 28-30	**WMO-ITU**, Global Seminar, Use of Radio Spectrum for Weather, Climate, Water, Geneva [CD]
Sep 29	**WMO,** Sub-committee on Communication of Modernization of Tropical Cyclone Watches and Warnings [PDO]
Oct 2	**WMO,** webinar, CPT as a tool for objective seasonal forecasting in RA IV, virtual [STO]
Oct 13-16	**Agencia Estatal de Meteorología (AEMET**), the XXI Conference of Directors of Ibero-American Meteorological and Hydrological Services (CIMHET), Spain [CD]
Oct 19-23	**WMO**, 4th Session of the Commission for Weather, Climate, Hydrological, Marine and Related Environmental Services and Applications (SERCOM-4) [CD, STO]

Nov 23-27	**WMO,** 4th Session of the Commission for Observation, Infrastructure and Information Systems (INFCOM-4), Geneva, Switzerland [CD, STO]
Nov 23-27	**CIMH,** Caribbean Regional Climate Outlook Forum (CARICOF), St Vincent & the Grenadines [PDO]
Dec 1-3	**Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC),** 65th Session of the IPCC (IPCC-65) [CD]
Dec 7- 12	**CDEMA**, 14th Caribbean Conference On Comprehensive Disaster Management (CDM14), Guyana [PDO]
Dec (TBD)	Severe Weather Forecasting Programme, Management Team Virtual Meeting, December [CD, PDO]

Technical Activities of Member States and CIMH facilitated by the Coordinating Director

YEAR	TRAINING/COURSES/MEETING/CONFERENCES	NAME	PARTICIPATING COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION
2026	First meeting of the WMO Youth Focal Point Coordination Group, Tokyo, Japan, 26 - 29 January	Nardia Magloire	British Virgin Islands
	Forty-Eighth Session of the RA IV Hurricane Committee (HC-48) 2 - 5 March Mexico City, Mexico	Kathy-Ann Caesar	CIMH
	Severe Weather Forecasting Programme (SWFP) – Caribbean Regional Sub-Programme Management Team (RSMT) Meeting, Mexico City 6-7 March	Dale Destin	Antigua & Barbuda
		Kathy-Ann Caesar	CIMH
	Storm Surge Workshop Coastal Inundation Project for the Caribbean, Belize 13-16 April	Dale Destin	Antigua & Barbuda
		Nkosi Mounter-Taitt	Barbados
		Michael Carey	Cayman Islands
		Benjamin Harding	Cayman Islands
		Vernie Marcellin-Honore	Dominica
		Nicole Jones	Grenada
		Tahj Edwards	Jamaica
		Glenn Antoine	Saint Lucia
		Denel Dixon	St Kitts & Nevis
		Joan McDonald	St Vincent & the Grenadines
		Kendly Smith	Turks & Caicos
	RA IV Workshop on Hurricane Forecasting and Warning Miami, Florida, USA 20–24 April	Johnathon Pryce	Grenada

YEAR	TRAINING/COURSES/MEETING/CONFERENCES	NAME	PARTICIPATING COUNTRY/ORGANIZATION
2026	WIS2 Training Workshop, Trinidad and Tobago 9-12 June	Valentino Muckett	Anguilla
		Keon August	British Virgin Islands
		Zhuan Sweeney	Montserrat
		Dr. Holly Hamilton	Turks and Caicos Islands
	80th Session of the WMO Executive Council 22-26 June	Dr David Farrell	CIMH
		Dr Holly Hamilton	Turks & Caicos Islands
	Third WMO Regional Climate Center (RCC) – Washington Training Workshop San Jose, Costa Rica June 29 to July 3	Kerrie Forbes	Cayman Islands
	Meeting of the Task Team on Standardization of First-Mile Data Collection (TT-1M) Aachen, Germany, 12-13th October	Jonathan Cox	CIMH
	Caribbean Regional Training on Geospatial Technologies and Artificial Intelligence for Climate Resilience Bridgetown, Barbados 12-14 October	Tigahna Bacchus	Trinidad & Tobago
	4th Session of the WMO Commission for Weather, Climate, Hydrological, Marine and Related Environmental Services and Applications (SERCOM-4) Geneva, Switzerland 19-23 October 2026 (virtual participation)	Kathy-Ann Caesar	CIMH
		Arlene Laing	CMO
		Kenneth Kerr	CMO
		Haley Anderson	CMO
		Gerard Tamar	Grenada
	11th International Workshop on Tropical Cyclones (IWTC) Shanghai, China 16-20 November	Gilbert Miller	Cayman Islands
		Denel Dixon	St Kitts & Nevis
		Billy Jeffers	St Vincent & the Grenadines
	Workshop on Storm Surge and Tsunami Forecasting and Alert Services Hong Kong, China	Joshua Daniels	Turks & Caicos Islands

	2 to 4 December 2026		